

the master host computer and over the interconnecting communications channel 50. As a result, each host computer begins sending commands and data to and receives at least data from the mass storage system at the same time. At this point, it is the configuration and parameter input to the master host computer, as delivered to the client computers, which controls the actions of each of the client host computers. Thus, the provided information and arguments can cause, for example, only a subset of the host computers to communicate and issue commands to the mass storage system, and/or only a specific set of logical units at the mass storage level may be exercised in a specific configuration dictated by the arguments input at step 100.

Remarks

In the office action, the Examiner (1) objected to the drawings, (2) rejected Claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 5,953,686 issued to Hale ("Hale") in view of Japanese Patent No. 08241277 issued to Voigt ("Voigt"), and (3) rejected Claims 4 and 5 under § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hale in view of Voigt and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,633,471 issued to Perera et al. ("Perera"). Reconsideration and allowance of the application, as amended, are requested.

I. Objections to Drawings

The Examiner objected to the drawings for not including reference numbers 900 and 902 mentioned in the specification. FIGURE 9 has been amended as shown in the attached marked copy of the drawing to include these reference numbers in accordance with their description in the specification. No new matter has been added.

The Examiner also objected to the drawings for including a reference number not mentioned in the specification, in particular reference number 112 in FIGURE 5. The

specification has been amended to include this reference number in accordance with its use in FIGURE 5. No new matter has been added.

The Examiner also requested corrected drawings, for which formal drawings are submitted herewith.

II. §103(a) Rejections

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hale in view of Voigt. The Examiner contends that Hale discloses all of the claim elements except processing the accumulated data regarding the performance of the mass storage system in response to the host generated commands, the processing comprising validating and correcting, as required, the accumulated data. The Examiner contends, however, that Voigt teaches this step (in the Abstract, lines 1-7; Solution, lines 1-11; and Blocks 0023-0033), and that it would have been obvious to modify Hale to include this step. These claim rejections are respectfully traversed.

Voigt discloses a system for identifying methods of improving performance in data storage systems. In particular, Voigt discloses sampling a performance metric during operation of a storage system; determining if the performance metric is at some desired level of performance; and suggesting to the user ways of improving performance of the system in the event the performance metric is not at the desired level of performance. Voigt does not disclose or suggest processing accumulated data regarding mass storage system performance by validating and correcting, as required, the accumulated data. Voigt, by contrast, only discloses suggesting corrections to the system in order to improve its performance. In other words, Voigt does not teach validating and correcting data relating to system performance, but instead teaches correcting the system itself for improving performance. Voigt also does not identify any need for or otherwise suggest processing accumulated data on system performance by validating and correcting it, as required. Therefore, even assuming that the

Examiner's combination of Voigt and Hale is proper under §103, the combination does not teach (or suggest) each and every limitation of the claims as required for a rejection under §103. These rejections should accordingly be withdrawn.

Claims 2 and 3 are dependent on Claim 1 and are similarly allowable over the Hale and Voigt references.

The Examiner rejected dependent Claims 4 and 5 under § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hale in view of Voigt and further in view of Perera. Perera discloses error detection and correction in an optical storage system. Perera does not solve the deficiencies of Voigt with respect to the rejection of Claim 1, on which Claims 4 and 5 are dependent. Furthermore, Perera is not properly combinable with Hale under § 103 because the two references are directed to solving different problems; Hale is directed to measuring performance in a mass storage system having a plurality of disk drives, and Perera is directed to error detection and correction in an optical storage system. One skilled in the art would not consider combining these references. Therefore, the rejections of Claims 4 and 5 based on these references should be withdrawn.

Claims 1-6 are pending in the present application. As the application is now believed to be in condition for allowance, issuance of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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Marked Up Version of Replacement Paragraph in Specification

Next at step 112, the driver program initiates testing of the mass storage system by communicating to each host computer, directly from the master host computer and over the interconnecting communications channel 50. As a result, each host computer begins sending commands and data to and receives at least data from the mass storage system at the same time. At this point, it is the configuration and parameter input to the master host computer, as delivered to the client computers, which controls the actions of each of the client host computers. Thus, the provided information and arguments can cause, for example, only a subset of the host computers to communicate and issue commands to the mass storage system, and/or only a specific set of logical units at the mass storage level may be exercised in a specific configuration dictated by the arguments input at step 100.

Post Processing Tab

The Post Processing Tab creates objects, plot graphs and generates summary files using the Splus Data Analysis Software.

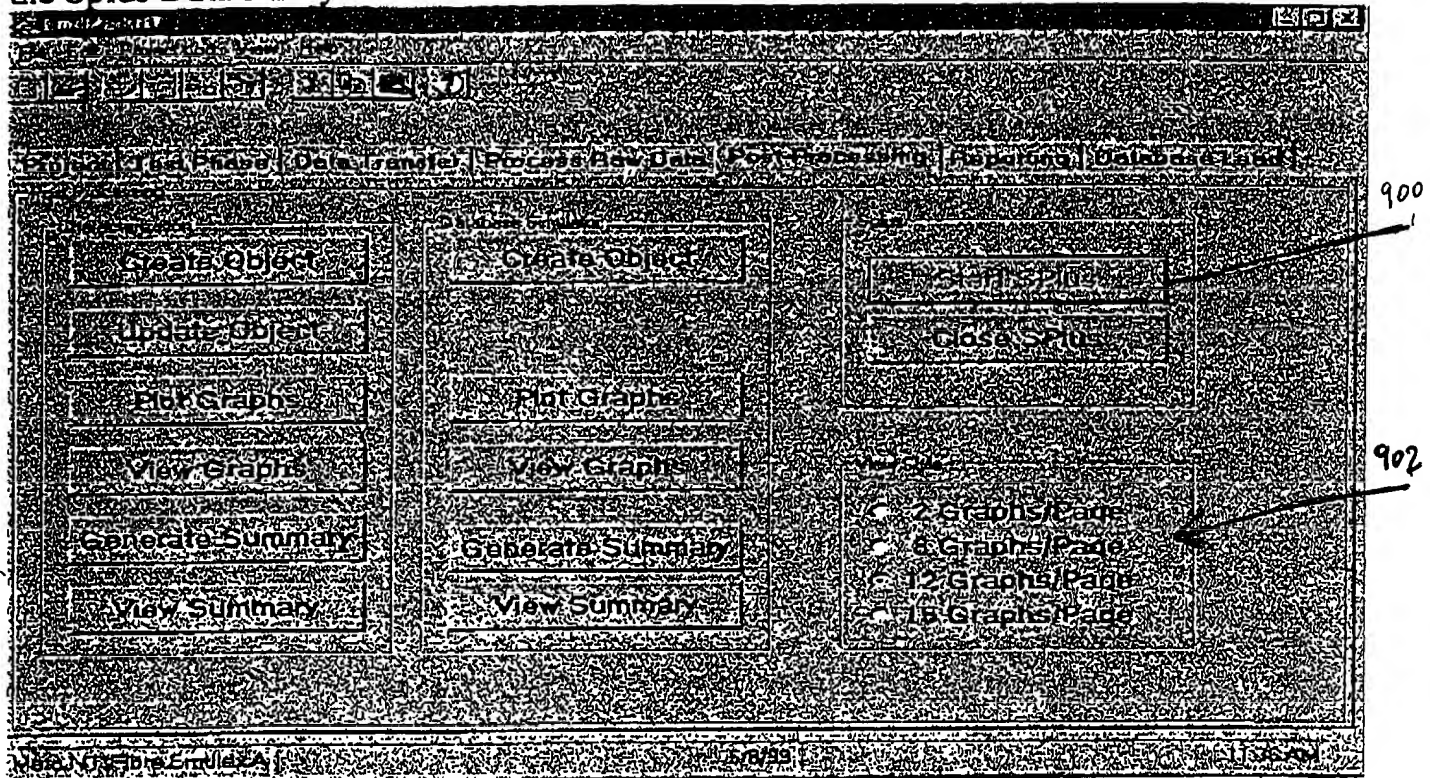
Starting SPLus

Fig. 4

1. Click on the Start Splus Button
(Object buttons will be grayed out until Splus is running. If graphs or summary files have already been created those buttons will be visible)
2. Bring up the Splus window to watch for errors and to use during the Update Objects routine
3. Select 2 graphs/page 8 graphs/page, 12 graphs/page or 15 graphs/page option for viewing the graphs once generated
4. Process Characterization or Database Simulator objects follow instructions on the next page.
5. Select the Close Splus button when you are leaving this tab
(If there is a problem closing Splus, bring up the window and close manually. Select NO twice to its Save Reports and Objects questions)

(If you forget to close Splus before you exit the EMCMarkNT Data Reduction Tool you will need to quit out of Splus from the command line by typing `q()` or by file -> exit)

6. Go to the Reporting Tab

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